

### Abstract

The invention provides a method and system for relieving temporal overload conditions in a router when weighted queues are employed to forward packets to their next destination. Typically, a received packet is mapped to a weighted queue that is associated with the kind of data included in the packet. The invention employs a threshold value to determine when an overloading condition of a weighted queue is so severe that high priority packets are in danger of being dropped. As long as this condition occurs, the invention will remap higher priority packets from a weighted queue associated with the kind of data included in the packets to another weighted queue that is not as loaded and which normally would not be associated with kind of data included in the packets at risk of being dropped.